

PSH student drawn toward dreams

Elin Marcel
Capital Times Staff

Craig Smith is not the editor of the Capital Times, but if you look on the editorial page, you'll see his handiwork.

For the past three semesters, the senior communications major has designed editorial cartoons for the Capital Times.

Relaxing in his cozy attic studio, the 36-year-old New Cumberland resident reflected on his education at Penn State Harrisburg.

"In a way, school is my hobby," Smith said. "I look at it as an institution, as well as making blanket assumptions about its benefits."

Smith said there are other things at PSH that are more important than a degree.

"The degree doesn't mean squat to me," Smith said. "The experience of meeting students and professors has been very enlightening."

However, Smith added, "It [the degree] will be important in certain contexts."

These "certain contexts" have already appeared in Smith's life. Smith has been asked to teach a computer graphics class at Harrisburg Area Community College after his December graduation.

Smith doesn't know what his job future will be when he leaves Penn State Harrisburg.

"If I have to work on roads, that's all right," Smith said.

Smith is no stranger to the workplace, as he recently left IBM after ten years, and is currently unemployed.

"It's a little scary because we have three kids, a house, and two cars," Smith said. "I'm leaving behind a kind of reliable

PROFILE

employment that perhaps allowed us to do things over the past 10 years."

Smith began his IBM career in the warehouse, ending up in an office, where he worked with programmers and user groups for system changes, and helped design systems.

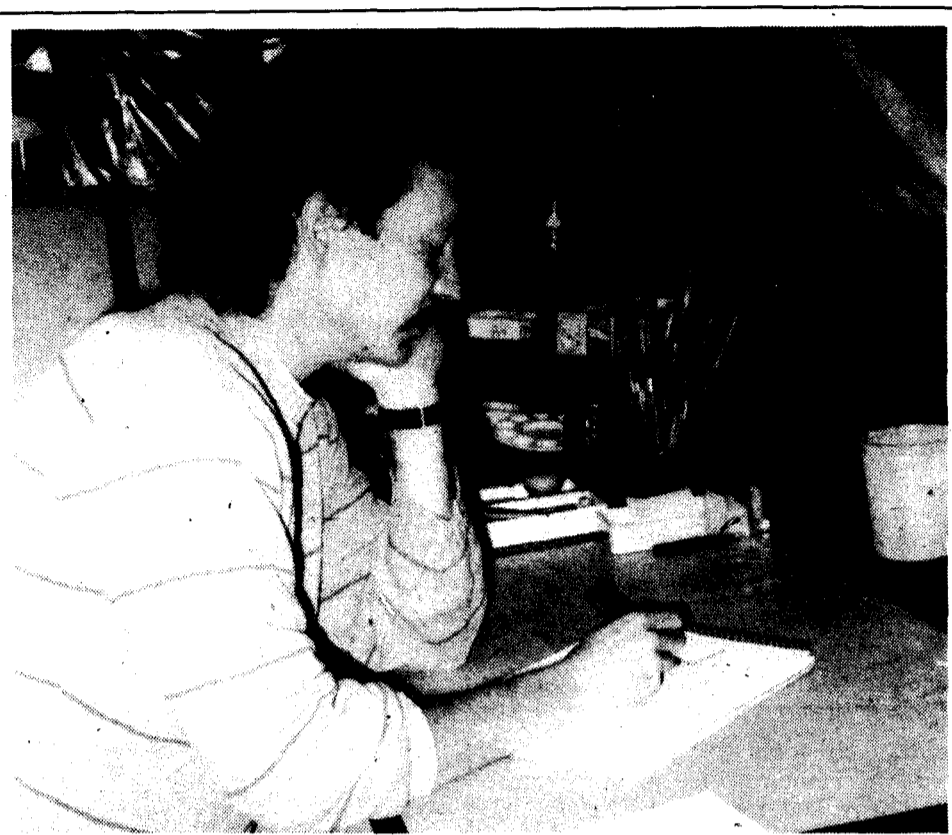
"Over time, I moved up into more responsible positions," Smith said. "I found myself at a desk with headphones on, staring at a computer terminal all day," Smith said, chuckling ruefully.

Smith said that during this time, IBM started losing dominance, as things changed in the computer industry.

"They had always been a people-oriented company, and their internal culture became more and more by numbers," Smith said. "People were becoming numbers."

Smith took a leave of absence from IBM in August 1989, to resume his college career, which he began at Kutztown University as a fine arts major.

He said that during his leave of



Craig Smith at work in his attic studio.

Photo by Elin Marcel

absence, IBM changed even more.

"I realized that some people I had worked with had become silly and stupid," Smith said.

In September 1991, Smith accepted IBM's offer of voluntary separation.

Smith, his wife Sue, and their three children live in New Cumberland, in a house Smith calls "recycled." Smith's kitchen, which he built himself, is proof of his love of carpentry.

"If you're doing something you really

enjoy, it's easy," Smith said. "I try to emphasize that with my children. What I really love, I discovered as a kid."

Smith laughed as he described his early interest in art. "It would be too easy to say it came naturally," Smith said. "As family stories go, as soon as I could hold a crayon, I took to it."

Smith said he did things differently when he attended Kutztown University.

See Smith, page 10

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C.M. SMITH